

SITE: Regal Chemical Fire
BREAK: 2.10
OTHER: v. 2

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGAL CHEMICAL FIRE FINAL POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: January 27, 2004
From: Katrina Jones, OSC
US EPA Region IV
To: Regional Response Center, 4WD-ERRB
Gary Andrew, GAEPD
Laurie Woods, Forsyth County EMA

I. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION

Site Name: Regal Chemical Fire
Street Address: 600 Branch Road
City, County, State, Zip code: Alpharetta, Forsyth County, Georgia
Latitude and longitude: N 34° 7' 23" W 84° 13' 26"
Site Id: A4DK
Cerclis Number: GAN000407731
State Notification: GA EPD
Incident Category: CERCLA Emergency Response
Start Date: January 22, 2004
Demobilization Date: January 23, 2004

II BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 1/22/04 a fire broke out at the Regal Chemical Company warehouse at approximately 0730 hours. The company currently blends fertilizers for general lawn care including golf courses. Two separate reports were sent in to the NRC (#711249 and #711256). Georgia EPD requested assistance from EPA after speaking with the company. The responding agencies included Forsyth County Fire and Hazmat, Forsyth County EMA, Georgia EPD, GEMA, EPA, and START. Television news crews were also present covering the incident.

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

The Forsyth County Fire Department and EMA evacuated a 0.5 mile radius around the facility. There was shelter in place for one nearby school. Originally, the fire department put water on the fire but halted one hour into the incident. After receiving an inventory from Regal Chemical, it was determined that the warehouse contained a variety of insecticides and herbicides. The following is a list of the bulk items that burned in the fire:



10583846

Devrinol - 500 lbs
Prodiamine - 65% - 55,000lbs
Oxidizan (Ronstar) 50%
Propane 25 lbs
Triforlarlin 85% - 500 lbs

In addition the following items were burned in undetermined amounts:

Granular paper
potash
urea
limestone
methelyn

The fire itself started inside a cooker in the warehouse. Overnight a 55-gallon drum of an herbicide called Devrinol which is napropamide (CAS No. 15299-99-7) ignited in the cooker. It is not known at this time whether the thermostat failed, the cooker failed, or if there was human error involved that caused it to go undetected. In addition, this was the first time the company used this much of the material inside the cooker at once. Typically, it is put into much smaller pails. As a result, the material flashed out of the cooker catching the warehouse on fire. It is possible that the subsequent explosion was caused by the propane tanks.

EPA contractors conducted air monitoring in the plume and around the perimeter of the fire. No elevated levels of hazardous chemicals were detected. In addition, EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft was utilized to determine the size, shape, composition and concentration of gases in the plume. Very low levels of methanol were detected closest to the building. Water runoff was also evaluated to ensure there was no impact to the surrounding ditches and Big Creek. Monitoring continued all day as the fire department decided to let the fire burn itself out. A follow-up by EPA was conducted the following day to ensure the company had secured a contractor to conduct the final removal. They are currently conducting with GA EPD for the onsite removal action.

IV. CONTRACTOR INFORMATION AND ESTIMATED COSTS

Estimated Costs

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Extramural: | |
| START | \$3,000 |
| Intramural: | |
| EPA | 800 |
| ASPECT | <u>3,000</u> |
| Total Site Costs | \$6,800 |

VI ROSTER OF AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN REMOVAL

| Org/Agency | Primary Contact | Phone Number | Role/Activity |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| EPA | Katrina Jones | 404-562-8811 | OSC |
| Georgia EPD | Kenneth Perry | 404-656-6905 | Responder |
| GEMA | Dan Yeargin | 770-535-5741 | Field Coordinator |
| Forsyth County EMA | Laurie Woods | 678-898-6239 | County Responder |
| START | Randy Nattis | 678-775-3080 | Air Monitoring |
| Regal Chemical | Stan Norris Will King | 770-475-4837 | Potentially Responsible Party |